

FLE

- For fear, though *fleeter* than the wind,
Believes 'tis always left behind. *Hudibras*, p. iii. cant. 3.
So fierce they drove, their couriers were so *fleet*,
That the turf trembled underneath their feet. *Dryden*.
He told us, that the welkin would be clear
When swallows *fleet* soar high and sport in air. *Gay*.
Ten thousand thousand *fleet* ideas
Croud fast into the mind. *Thomson's Autumn*.
2. [In the husbandry of some provinces.] Light; superficially
fruitful.
Marl cope-ground is a cold, stiff, wet clay, unless where it
is very *fleet* for pasture. *Mortimer*.
3. Skimming the surface.
Those lands must be plowed *fleet*. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.
To *FLEET*. *v. n.* [plotan, Saxon.]
1. To fly swiftly; to vanish.
How all the other passions *fleet* to air,
As doubtful thoughts, and rash embrac'd despair! *Shakespeare*.
A wolf, who, hang'd for human slaughter,
Ev'n from the gallows did his fell foul *flee*. *Shakespeare*.
2. To be in a transient state; the same with *fit*.
Our understanding, to make a complete notion, must add
something else to this *flecting* and unremarkable superficialities,
that may bring it to our acquaintance. *Digby on Bodies*.
Of *flecting* joys
Of Paradise, dear-bought with lasting woes! *Milt. P. Lost*.
While I listen to thy voice,
Chloris! I feel my life decay:
That powerful noise
Calls my *flecting* soul away. *Waller*.
As empty clouds by rising winds are tost,
Their *flecting* forms scarce sooner found than lost. *Prior*.
To *FLEET*. *v. a.*
1. To skim the water.
Who swelling sails in Caspian sea doth cross,
And in frail wood an Adrian gulph doth *flee*,
Doth not, I ween, so many evils meet. *Fairy Queen*, b. ii.
2. To live merrily, or pass time away lightly.
Many young gentlemen flock to him every day, and *flee*
the time carelessly as they did in the golden age. *Shakespeare*.
3. [In the country.] To skim milk; to take off the cream:
whence the word *flecting* dish.
FLEETING-DISH. *n. f.* [from *flect* and *dish*.] A skimming
bowl.
FLEETLY. *adv.* [from *flect*.] Swiftly; nimbly; with swift
pace.
FLEETNESS. *n. f.* [from *flect*.] Swiftness of course; nimble-
ness; celerity; velocity; speed; quickness.
FLESH. *n. f.* [flec, flegre, Saxon; vleesch, Dutch; fleis, Erse.]
1. The body distinguished from the soul.
As if this *flesh*, which walls about our life,
Were brafs impregnable. *Shakespeare's Richard II.*
A disease that's in my *flesh*,
Which I must needs call mine. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.
And thou, my foul, which turn't with curious eye
To view the beams of thine own form divine,
Know, that thou canst know nothing perfectly,
While thou art clouded with this *flesh* of mine. *Davies*.
2. The muscles distinguished from the skin, bones, tendons.
A spirit hath not *flesh* and bones. *New Testament*.
3. Animal food distinguished from vegetable.
Flesh should be forborne as long as he is in coats, or at least
till he is two or three years old. *Locke*.
Flesh, without being qualified with acids, is too alkalescent
a diet. *Arbutnot on Aliments*.
Acidity in the infant may be cured by a *flesh* diet in the
nurse. *Arbutnot on Aliments*.
4. The body of beasts or birds used in food, distinct from
fishes.
There is another indictment upon thee, for suffering *flesh*
to be eaten in thy house, contrary to the law. *Shakespeare's H. IV.*
We mortify ourselves with the diet of fish; and think we
fare coarsely, if we abtain from the *flesh* of other animals.
Brown's Vulgar Errors.
5. Animal nature.
The end of all *flesh* is come before me. *Gen. vi. 13*.
6. Carnality; corporal appetites.
Name not religion; for thou lov'st the *flesh*. *Shakespeare*.
Fasting serves to mortify the *flesh*, and subdue the lusts
thereof. *Smalbridge's Sermons*.
7. A carnal state; worldly disposition.
They that are in the *flesh* cannot please God. *Rom. viii. 8*.
The *flesh* lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the
flesh. *Gal. v. 16*.
8. Near relation.
Let our hand be upon him; for he is our *flesh*. *Gen.*
When thou seest the naked, cover him; and hide not thy-
self from thine own *flesh*. *Isa. lviii. 7*.
9. The outward or literal sense. The Orientals termed the
immediate or literal signification of any precept or type the
flesh, and the remote or typical meaning the spirit. This is
frequent in St Paul.
Ye judge after the *flesh*. *John viii. 15*.

FLE

- To *FLESH*. *v. a.*
1. To initiate: from the sportman's practice of feeding his
hawks and dogs with the first game that they take, or train-
ing them to pursuit by giving them the *flesh* of animals.
Good man boy, if you please; come, I'll *flesh* ye. *Shakespeare*.
Every puny swordsmen will think him a good tame quarry
to enter and *flesh* himself upon. *Government of the Tongue*.
2. To harden; to establish in any practice, as dogs by often
feeding on any thing.
These princes finding them so *fleshed* in cruelty, as not to be
reclaimed, secretly undertook the matter alone. *Sidney*, b. ii.
The women ran all away; saving only one, who was so
fleshed in malice, that neither during nor after the fight she
gave any truce to her cruelty. *Sidney*, b. ii.
3. To glut; to satiate.
Harry from curb'd licence plucks
The muzzle of restraint; and the wild dog
Shall *flesh* his tooth on every innocent. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*
He hath perverted a young gentlewoman, and this night he
fleshes his will in the spoil of her honour. *Shakespeare*.
The kindred of him hath been *flesh'd* upon us;
And he is bred out of that bloody strain,
That hunted us in our familiar paths. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
Full bravely hast thou *flesh'd*
Thy maiden sword. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*
FLESHROATH. *n. f.* [flesh and roath.] Broath made by
decocting flesh.
Her leg being emaciated, I advised bathing it with *flesh*-
broath, wherein had been decocted emollient herbs. *Wise man*.
FLESHCOLOUR. *n. f.* [flesh and colour.] The colour of flesh.
A complication of ideas together makes up the single com-
plex idea, which he calls man, whereof white or fleshcolour in
England is one. *Locke*.
A loose earth of a pale *fleshcolour*, that is, white with a
blush of red, is found in small fissures of a brown soft stone in
the Skrees, a mountain in Cumberland. *Woodward on Fossils*.
FLESHFLY. *n. f.* [flesh and fly.] A fly that feeds upon flesh,
and deposits her eggs in it.
I would no more endure
This wooden slavery, than I would suffer
The *fleshfly* blow my mouth. *Shakespeare's Tempest*.
It is a wonderful thing in *fleshflies*, that a fly-maggot, in five
days space after it is hatched, arrives at its full growth and
perfect magnitude. *Ray on the Creation*.
FLESHHOOK. *n. f.* [flesh and hook.] A hook to draw flesh
from the caldron.
All that the *fleshhook* brought up the priest took. *1 Sa. ii. 12*.
FLESHLESS. *adj.* [from *flesh*.] Without flesh.
FLESHLINESS. *n. f.* [from *flesh*.] Carnal passions, or ap-
petites.
When strong passions or weak *fleshlines*
Would from the right way seek to draw him wide,
He would, through temperance and steadfastness,
Teach him the weak to strengthen, and the strong suppress.
Fairy Queen, b. ii. cant. 4. Stan. 2.
Corrupt manners in living, breed false judgment in doc-
trine: sin and *fleshlines* bring forth sects and heresies. *Ascham*.
FLESHLY. *adj.* [from *flesh*.]
1. Corporal.
Nothing resembles death so much as sleep;
Yet then our minds themselves from slumber keep,
When from their *fleshly* bondage they are free. *Denham*.
2. Carnal; lascivious.
From amidst them rose
Belial, the dissolute spirit that fell,
The sensualist; and, after Asmodai,
The *fleshliest* incubus. *Paradise Regained*, b. ii.
3. Animal; not vegetable.
'Tis then for nought that mother earth provides
The stores of all she shows, and all she hides,
If men with *fleshly* morsels must be fed,
And chaw with bloody teeth the breathing bread. *Dryden*.
4. Human; not celestial; not spiritual.
Else, never could the force of *fleshly* arm
Ne molten metal in his flesh embue. *Fairy Queen*, b. i.
What time th' eternal Lord in *fleshly* shrine
Enwombed was, from wretched Adam's line,
To purge away the guilt of sinful crime. *Fairy Queen*.
Much ostentation, vain of *fleshly* arm,
And of frail arms, much instrument of war
Before mine eyes thou'lt set. *Milton's Par. Regained*, b. iii.
FLESHMEAT. *n. f.* [flesh and meat.] Animal food; the flesh
of animals prepared for food.
The most convenient diet is that of *fleshmeat*. *Floyer*.
In this prodigious plenty of cattle and dearth of human
creatures, *fleshmeat* is monstrously dear. *Swift*.
FLESHMENT. *n. f.* [from *flesh*.] Eagerly gained by a suc-
cessful initiation.
He got praises of the king,
For him attempting who was self-subdued;
And in the *fleshment* of this dread exploit,
Drew on me here again. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.
FLESHMONGER.

FLE

- FLESHMONGER. *n. f.* [from *flesh*.] One who deals in flesh; a
pimp.
Was the duke a *fleshmonger*, a fool, and a coward, as you
then reported him?
FLESHPOT. *n. f.* [flesh and pot.] A vessel in which flesh is
cooked; thence plenty of flesh.
If he takes away the *fleshpots*, he can also alter the ap-
petite. *Taylor's Rule for living holy*.
FLESHQUAKE. *n. f.* [flesh and quake.] A tremor of the body;
a word formed by *Johnson* in imitation of earthquake.
They may, blood-shaken then,
Feel such a *fleshquake* to possess their powers,
As they shall cry like ours:
In found of peace or wars,
No harp c'er hit the stars. *Ben. Johnson's New-Imm*.
FLESHY. *adj.* [from *flesh*.]
1. Plump; full of flesh; fat; muculous.
All Ethiopes are *fleshy* and plump, and have great lips; all
which betoken moisture retained, and not drawn out. *Bacon*.
We say it is a *fleshy* file when there is much periphrases and
circuit of words, and when with more than enough it grows
fat and corpulent. *Ben. Johnson's Discoveries*.
The sole of his foot is flat and broad, being very *fleshy*, and
covered only with a thick skin; but very fit to travel in sandy
places. *Ray*.
2. Pulpous; plump; with regard to fruits.
Those fruits that are so *fleshy*, as they cannot make drink
by expression, yet may make drink by mixture of water. *Bacon*.
FLETCHER. *n. f.* [from *flecche*, an arrow, French.] A manu-
facturer of bows and arrows.
It is commended by our *fletchers* for bows, next unto yew.
Mortimer's Husbandry.
FLET, participle passive of *To flect*. Skimmed; deprived of the
cream.
They teach them to drink *flet* milk, which they just warm.
Mortimer's Husbandry.
FLEW. The preterite of *fly*.
The people *flew* upon the spoil. *1 Sa. xiv. 32*.
O'er the world of waters *Hermes flew*,
'Till now the distant island rose in view. *Pope's Odyssey*, b. v.
FLEW. *n. f.* The large chaps of a deep-mouthed hound. *Hamm*.
FLEWED. *adj.* [from *flew*.] Chapped; mouthed.
My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kind,
So *flew'd*, so fanded, and their heads are hung
With ears that sweep away the morning dew. *Shakespeare*.
FLEXANIMOUS. *adj.* [flexanimus, Latin.] Having power to
change the disposition of the mind. *Dia*.
FLEXIBILITY. *n. f.* [flexibilitas, French, from *flexible*.]
1. The quality of admitting to be bent; pliancy.
Do not the rays which differ in refrangibility differ also in
flexibility? And are they not, by their different inflexions, sepa-
rated from one another, so as after separation to make the
colours? *Newton's Opt.*
Corpuccles of the same set agree in every thing; but those
that are of diverse kinds differ in specifick gravity, in hard-
ness, and in flexibility, as in bigness and figure. *Woodward*.
2. Easiness to be persuaded; ductility of mind; compliance;
facility.
Advise me to resolve rather to err by too much flexibility
than too much perverseness, by meekness than by self-love.
Hammond's Pract. Catech.
FLEXIBLE. *adj.* [flexibilis, Latin; flexible, French.]
1. Possible to be bent; not brittle; easy to be bent; pliant;
not stiff.
When splitting winds
Make *flexible* the knees of knotted oaks. *Sh. Trill. and Cress.*
Take a stock-gillyflower and tie it upon a stick, and put
them both into a stoop glass full of quicksilver, so that the
flower be covered: after four or five days you shall find the
flower fresh, and the stalk harder and less flexible than it was.
Bacon's Natural History, No. 796.
2. Not rigid; not inexorable; complying; obsequious.
Phocyon was a man of great severity, and no ways *flexible*
to the will of the people. *Bacon*.
3. Ductile; manageable.
Under whose care forever a child is put to be taught, during
the tender and flexible years of his life, it should be one who
thinks Latin and language the least part of education. *Locke*.
4. That may be accommodated to various forms and purposes.
This was a principle more flexible to their purpose. *Rogers*.
FLEXIBleness. *n. f.* [from *flexible*.]
1. Possibility to be bent; not brittleness; easiness to be bent;
not stiffness; pliancy.
I will rather chuse to wear a crown of thorns, than to ex-
change that of gold for one of lead, whose embased *flexibleness*
shall be forced to bend. *King Charles*.
Keep those slender aerial bodies separated and stretched out,
which otherwise, by reason of their *flexibleness* and weights,
would flag or curl. *Boyle's Spring of the Air*.
2. Facility; obsequiousness; compliance.
3. Ductility; manageableness.
The *flexibleness* of the former part of a man's age, not yet
grown up to be headstrong, makes it more governable. *Locke*.

FLI

- FLEXILE. *adj.* [flexilis, Latin.] Pliant; easily bent; obse-
quious to any power or impulse.
Every *flexile* wave
Obeys the blast, th' aerial tumult swells. *Thomson's Summer*.
FLEXION. *n. f.* [flexio, Latin.]
1. The act of bending.
2. A double; a bending; part bent; joint.
Of a sinuous pipe that may have some four *flexions*, trial
would be made. *Bacon's Natural History*, No. 222.
3. A turn towards any part or quarter.
Pity causeth sometimes tears, and a *flexion* or cast of the eye
aside. *Bacon's Natural History*, No. 71.
FLEXOR. *n. f.* [Latin.] The general name of the muscles
which act in contracting the joints.
Flatterers, who have the *flexor* muscles so strong that they
are always bowing and cringing, might in some measure be
corrected by being tied down upon a tree by the back. *Aruth*.
FLEXUOUS. *adj.* [flexuosus, Latin.]
1. Winding; full of turns and meanders; tortuous.
In regard of the soul, the numerous and crooked narrow
crannies, and the restrained *flexuous* rivulets of corporeal things,
are all contemptible. *Digby on the Soul*.
2. Bending; not straight; variable; not steady.
The trembling of a candle discovers a wind, that otherwise
we do not feel; and the *flexuous* burning of flames doth shew
the air beginneth to be unquiet. *Bacon's Natural History*.
FLEXURE. *n. f.* [flexura, Latin.]
1. The form or direction in which any thing is bent.
Contrary is the *flexure* of the joints of our arms and legs
to that of quadrupeds: our knees bend forward, whereas the
same joint of their hind legs bends backward. *Ray*.
2. The act of bending.
The elephant hath joints, but none for courtesy;
His legs are for necessity, not *flexure*. *Shak. Trill. and Cress.*
3. The part bent; the joint.
His mighty strength lies in his able loins,
And where the *flexure* of his navel joins. *Sandy*.
4. Obsequious or servile cringe.
Think'st thou the fiery fever will go out
With titles blown from adulation?
Will it give place to *flexure* and low bends? *Shak. Hen. V.*
To FLICKER. *v. a.* [fliccheren, Dutch; pliccepan, Saxon.]
To flutter; to play the wings; to have a fluttering motion.
Under th' allowance of your grand aspect,
Whose influence, like the wreath of radiant fire,
On *flickering* Phoebus' front. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.
'Twas ebbing darkness, past the mid' of night,
And Phosphor, on the confines of the light,
Promis'd the sun, ere day began to spring;
The tuneful lark already stretch'd her wing,
And *flick'ring* on her nest, made short essays to sing. *Dry.*
At all her stretch her little wings she spread,
And with her feather'd arms embrac'd the dead;
Then *flickering* to his pallid lips, she strove
To print a kiss, the last essay of love. *Dryden*.
FLIER. *n. f.* [from *fly*.]
1. One that runs away; a fugitive; a runaway.
Camst thou from where they made the stand?
—I did;
Though you, it seems, came from the *fliers*. *Shak. Cymbel.*
The gates are open, now prove good seconds;
'Tis for the followers fortune widens them,
Not for the *fliers*. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*.
Now the *fliers* from and forsakers of their places, carry the
parliamentary power along with them. *King Charles*.
2. That part of a machine which, by being put into a more
rapid motion than the other parts, equalizes and regulates the
motion of the rest; as in a jack.
The *flier*, tho't had leaden feet,
Turn'd so quick, you scarce could see't. *Swift*.
FLIGHT. *n. f.* [from *To fly*.]
1. The act of flying or running from danger.
And now, too late, he wishes for the fight,
That strength he wasted in ignoble flight.
He thinks by flight his mistress must be won,
And claims the prize because he best did run. *Dryd. Ind. Em.*
As eager of the chase, the maid
Beyond the forest's verdant limits stray'd;
Pan saw and lov'd, and, burning with desire,
Pursu'd her flight; her flight increas'd his fire. *Pope*.
2. Removal to another place.
The fury sprang above the Stygian flood;
And on her wicker wings, sublime through night,
She to the Latian palace took her flight. *Dryden's Aen.*
3. The act of using wings; volation.
For he so swift and nimble was of flight,
That from this lower tract he dar'd to fly
Up to the clouds, and thence with pinions light
To mount aloft unto the crystal sky. *Spenser's Muirpots*.
Winds that tempest's brew,
When through Arabian groves they take their flight,
Made wanton with rich odours, lose their spue. *Dryden*.
4. Removal